

Mathemagician Blows Away Captivated Audience

By Mike Koscielny, Staff Writer

Math. Here at Saint Joseph's College, it is reserved for those crazy individuals who pursue it as a major or are interested in Computer Science. The majority of other students find math to be some looming monstrosity that demolished their high school grade point average. So, upon hearing that the SJC Math Department was bringing in a speaker to do a presentation, some students scoffed it off as nothing worthwhile. Those students missed the mark completely.

Dr. Arthur Benjamin, a Professor of Mathematics at Harvey Mudd College in Claremont, California, put on his "mathematical" show Monday, March 12 in the Shen Auditorium. The Math Department sent press releases to advertise the presentation to area schools and communities on top of encouraging all SJC students to attend.

"We were very excited that he was coming, but worried that we would not get a big audience," Marge McIlwain, Assistant Professor of Mathematics, said. "Who wants to come to a math speaker other than math people, right?"

Benjamin has appeared on numerous television shows and radio programs—*The Today Show*, *Mornings with Kerri-Anne* and *CNN Headline News* to name a few—demonstrating his own mix of mathematics and magic, teaching children and adults how to do ridiculously fast mental calculations. Recently, he was profiled in a segment on the show *Life and Times*. In 2005, Reader's

Digest proclaimed him to be "America's Best Math Whiz" in their annual "Best of America" issue.

A grant SJC received from the Lilly Foundation made it possible for the Math Department to bring such a high profile speaker to Rensselaer.

I was impressed with how he could store and compute all of the large numbers in his head.

~Abigail Edwards

"Dr. Donnelly (Professor of Mathematics) and I both saw Dr. Benjamin a few years ago at an International Conference of Technology in College Mathematics. He was a special speaker there and of course, with an audience of math geeks, he was very well received," McIlwain said. "So, when SJC got some money in a grant from Lilly and we were encouraged to bring speakers in, we both thought of Dr. Benjamin as a great choice."

After wowing the audience with a card trick, Benjamin began his stupendous feats of mathmagic. He first multiplied two- and three-digit numbers, solicited from the audience, together in his head. From there, he brought onstage five students who had calculators with them. He then proved he could square five two-digit numbers faster than the five calculators. He then did the same with three-digit numbers. Continuing to amaze the audience, he squared four

four-digit numbers.

"One of my favorite parts was seeing the expression on the calculator-using students when he was giving the answers," Anne Gull, Associate Professor in Chemistry and Dean of Freshmen, said.

To dazzle the audience once again, he took those four-digit numbers that he squared earlier and told the students with calculators to multiply them by any three-digit number their hearts desired. The students were instructed to read all but one of the numbers of the answer, in any order, and he correctly guessed the final number.

Another mathemagical deed he amazed audience members with was his ability to mentally use an algorithm to determine the day someone is born on given the month, date and year.

"I thought everything was amazing, but I was thoroughly impressed with how he could store and compute all of the large numbers in his head," freshman Math and Spanish major Abigail Edwards said.

He also produced his own, specially designed magic square for a few lucky audience members. His magic square had four rows and four columns. The rows, columns and four-by-four boxes added up to the same number. Benjamin took the day, month and year someone was born and used those numbers to do the arithmetic.

Then, he took the next portion of the performance to allow the audience to ask him any questions.

He explained how he did



Mathemagician Art Benjamin. (Photo by Anne White)

many of the calculations and taught the audience how they could do them as well.

"I was both educated and entertained by his performance," Assistant Professor of Computer Science Brian Capouch said. "I was also very surprised that I, a quite confirmed 'mathphobe,' was pretty much on top of everything he was doing. It was gratifying for me to be in a math-

oriented environment for once without being led to feel that I am innately inferior."

"I thought that his presentation was great for all ages, including Dr. Gull's kids who volunteered answers, and all disciplines," McIlwain said.

For Benjamin's grand finale, he squared a five-digit number in his head. The audience's minds were officially blown.

SJC Provides Presentation About How to Avoid Identity Theft

By Jennifer Ruff, Staff Writer



(Photo courtesy of <http://images.search.yahoo.com/search/images/>)

You've heard about identity theft and counterfeit money all the time on the news. You've seen first person interviews and accounts of it. But are we ever told how to prevent it? Well, on Thursday, March 1, students of Saint Joseph's College were given that very information by the Indiana State Police and a member of the United States Secret Service.

The first speaker, a representative from the State Police Department, approached the matter differently than the six o'clock news. He spoke not only as a policeman, but also as a victim. He admitted to the

assembly of students and faculty that he himself had suffered an identity theft encounter, and it took a lot for him and his wife to put everything back together again.

However, if your card has already been taken, you must first call the credit card company and cancel the card. Then call the police and file a report.

The speaker did reveal that most police departments do not know exactly how to handle that kind of situation. This is why it is so hard to catch that sort of criminal. Yet, he wanted all of the students to know that despite this, the situation is not hopeless.

The next speaker was a member of the Secret Service. She began her presentation by passing out several bills, ranging in value from five to twenty dollars, and asked those present if the bills were real or counterfeit.

After that bit of fun, she explained her newest encounter with counterfeit money. She said that someone had taken a five dollar bill, bleached it, and then reprinted it as a one hundred dollar bill. They chose a five because there is a security strip in the same location as in the hundred. People going through the bills see a watermark and pass it along, but what they don't

notice is that it is Abraham Lincoln and not Benjamin Franklin. The assembly was a very informative experience and hopefully will help students be aware of the threats around them.

Keys Elements of Identity Theft Prevention:

- Keep a limited number of credit cards with you when you go shopping
- Tear up finely or shred credit offers that you do not want or need
- Have someone get your mail when you're on vacation and make sure your mail is protected
- Keep credit cards close and watch for those who are attempting to get your pin number at the checkout line.
- Always ask for the reason behind giving out personal information before actually giving it. Ask if it is entirely necessary to give out the information before saying no.

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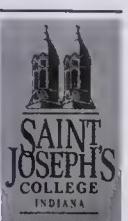
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Big Changes on the Library's Horizon

By Sandra Blum, Contributor

Everybody knows where it is, and everyone has set foot in it at least once, if only on the campus tour. The place is the Keith and Kate Robinson Memorial Library, the center of campus study.

You can find all sorts of people in the library for all sorts of reasons, from athletes in study tables, to tutors, to people who do not own their own computers. Whether they have to, or because they need a place to study, they all come to the library.

When you first walk into the library, you see hardly any books at all. A large desk behind which one to three people normally sit at one time is the first thing that catches your eye. Move further into the room and a plethora of comfy chairs and couches appear on your right, followed by long wooded tables surrounded by shelves of reference books.

Go around the corner of the circulation desk and you will see a small computer lab housing five computers which are normally occupied. Then you will come to a door with a sign telling you what you will encounter as you walk through it.

Opening this door is like walking into a different world. In place of couches and wooden

tables are row upon row of battered, tarnished, silver colored shelves containing books of all shapes, sizes, ages, and subjects. The distinct smell of books and dust immediately fills your nostrils and a flurry of colors float across your line of vision as you walk through this room that contains only one third of the library's vast collection.

There are three choices you can make once you are through this door. Take a sharp right once inside, and you will come across a staircase leading to the basement where the beginning of the book collection begins, sitting on rickety metal shelves. This part of the collection covers half of the basement. Periodicals dating back to the 1920s occupy the other half.

Should you go straight once inside, you will walk into the audio-visual room. Here you will find records ranging from classical music to operas and ballets. You will also find musical scores for any type of instrument, and videos for anyone to borrow. This is the room that anyone who needs to view a Core lecture comes to, for it contains a television and DVD player for this purpose.

The final choice inside this

room is to go forward and then take a right. Here you will find the PR-Z room, home to a number of old wooden shelves containing the end of the library book collection. This room is the most silent room in the library, for it is slightly detached from everything else. It contains one wobbly table with three chairs and one small couch.

However, with everything that the library holds, there is something that is lacking. The library ran a survey asking students what they most wanted in the library, and the number one thing was a larger study area.

"There is not enough room in the front for large study groups," said Daytime Circulation Supervisor Cheryl Witty. "And even if there were, we could not handle the noise levels. They would distract other students who also come to study."

Eager to provide the students with what they want, the library is getting a whole new look over the summer.

The books from upstairs will be moved to the basement, where compact shelving is going to be installed, and in their place tables, chairs, and couches will be substituted to provide more study room for the students. The



Danny Waclaw files books. The Keith and Kate Robinson Memorial Library will undergo numerous changes during the coming summer. (Photo courtesy of Stembel)

former PR-Z room will also be transformed into two conference rooms with projector equipment.

In order for the library staff to keep an eye on what is happening in these areas, a large glass window will be installed where a wall used to separate the front and back rooms.

"The worst part is going to be working around all the mess and noise this summer," Head of Library Services Cathy Salyers said. "But I don't mind the changes in the least."

As an added bonus, the library will become even more comfortable to employees and students alike with the

installation of a new air conditioner. Until now, there has only been one in the audio-visual room and the reference room.

The hope that comes of all of these changes is that more people will find the library a convenient and comfortable place to spend time studying and researching.

"I want the library to be almost an extension of the student's dorm rooms," said Salyers. "I love it when I see them out in the front room with their feet propped up on the tables and footrests. I want people to be comfortable here as they study and complete their research."

Dateless and Dejected? The Junior Class has a Solution

By Katherine Stembel, Co-Editor-In-Chief

SJC Students Choose to Serve During Spring Break

By Katherine Stembel, Co-Editor-In-Chief

While some SJC students sunned themselves on beaches or spent lazy afternoons by a pool during Spring Break, several decided to devote their time off to those in need.

A group of six students, accompanied by Campus Minister Ary Nelson, journeyed to Pennsylvania to aid in the ministries of the Benedictine Sisters of Erie.

The group volunteered at the Saint Benedict Day Care, playing with and reading to toddlers and preschoolers. The

helpers also worked at Sister Gus's Kids Cafe, which provides the evening meal for inner-city children, many of whom are homeless. The youngsters can play or get help with homework in addition to a meal. Most of the children that utilize the service have no permanent address and during the summer months the Cafe will provide the only meal they will receive that day.

In addition, the SJC students helped with AIM, an organization that helps send books to third world countries, as well as a soup

kitchen and food pantry. The group even went to the Neighborhood Art House which provides free lessons in art, music, and dance for children as well as additional tutoring.

The students volunteered their time and assistance for many reasons. Some view service work as their social mission as Christians and want to do more to serve the least of their brothers and sisters. Others want to begin moving from the charity aspect to that of social justice, and also learn about the Benedictine way

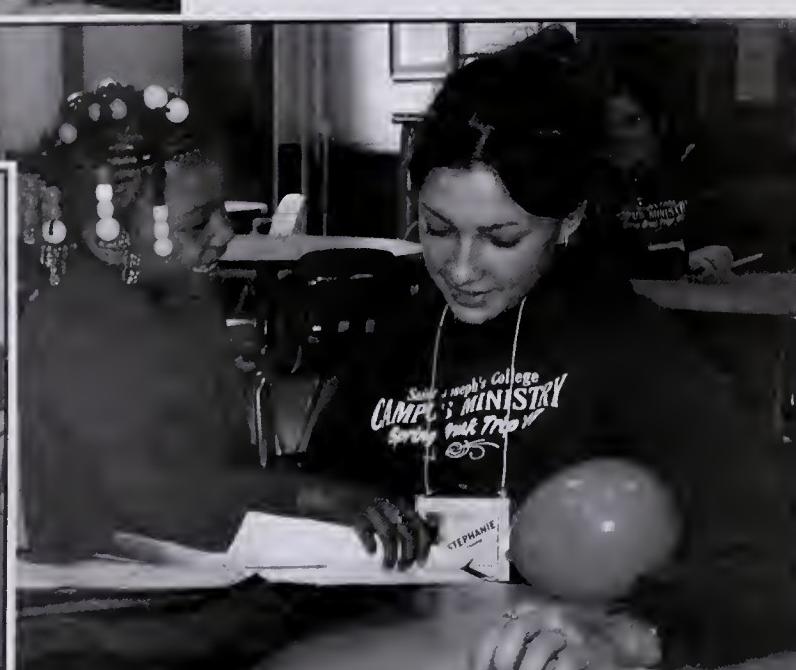
of life and experience Liturgy of the Hours. However, they all discovered that even a few people coming together can make a difference in others' lives.

"We met some wonderful nuns and this experience changed each one of us in a different way," said junior Elementary Education major Maggie Hagenauer. "It is hard to see that children are suffering from hunger in the United States and it's wonderful to be able to help."

Clockwise: Bill Murray, Stephanie Comiskey, Anna Ensley, Maggie Hagenauer, Phil Jobst, Laura Courtney, Ary Nelson. (Photo courtesy of Hagenauer)

Stephanie Comiskey works with a little girl at Sister Gus's Kids Cafe. (Photo courtesy of Nelson)

Maggie Hagenauer gives blankets made by SJC students to the Saint Benedict Day Care Center for the infant room. (Photo courtesy of Hagenauer)



Are you feeling lonely? Are you badly in need of a date? Then come to the Date Auction and buy your date...legally! The Junior class will be sponsoring the second Date Auction of the year in the Shen Auditorium on March 29 at 9 p.m.

The previous auction raised over \$500 and the funds were donated to the local Rensselaer Food Pantry. The auction coordinators have decided that instead of simply auctioning off Juniors, any student will be welcome to offer themselves up to the fate of the gavel. The Junior class hopes that this organizational change will aid in doubling the amount of donations which will again be offered up for an important reason.

"I think that students should attend this event because it is for a really good cause," said Junior Class President Liz Power.

"We're helping to raise money to donate to a local Breast Cancer organization because we believe that even the tiniest bit of money can help in the fight to beat breast cancer."

"We had so much fun with the first date auction that we couldn't wait until the next year to sponsor another one," she continued. "It is a great time to have some fun with your friends while giving back to the community at the same time."

For more information, contact Power at epk5584@saintjoe.edu.

Hould(ing) Me, I'm Scared

Brent J. Houlding *Opinions Editor*

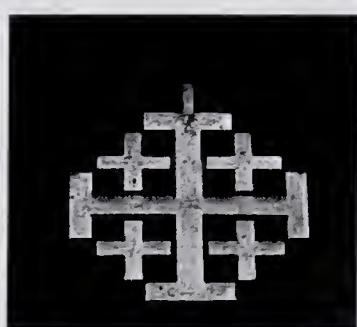
Welcome back my friends, to the column that never ends...I'm so glad you could attend...well, you get where I'm going with this. I'm glad to see you all made it back from spring break. What are the hot topics? Kairos, a quick Core 6 update, weather, and a preview of an upcoming article, just to name a few. Let's do it!

1. By the time this hits newsstands, I'll be on Kairos 47. However, I'm going as a leader, not a participant, so I'm already chock full of all the Kairos tidbits you can handle. Of course, I'm sworn to secrecy, but that's just the level of journalistic integrity I have. Here's the skinny: I'm preparing to go away for a weekend to make a difference in the lives of around 30 participants, and hopefully, to learn something about myself in the process too. As you all know, as a certified member of the Kairos "cult", I won't go into specifics, but that doesn't mean I can't give some hints. Here's what to expect from your friends going on Kairos when they return.

a. They will smile more. It may wear off after a while, after they get thrown helter-skelter back into the "real world"...but as they remember Kairos, and "live the fourth", there will be fond memories to bring a smile to their faces.

b. They will have jokes you won't understand. It's hard to spend an inevitably emotional four days with a group of people in an undisclosed remote location and not pick up a few crazy stories. Example: Hey Kairos 43ers...Lisa streaking ring a bell? See, you guys didn't get that. Good times...good times.

c. One way or another, they will be changed, and they will have grown. Kairos always gets people in the end. I'm not suggesting very few people have a full out epiphany and have a complete turn around in their lives. I'm not suggesting anyone's going to change their major and apply for seminary. But they will learn something about themselves, and in some



The symbol of Kairos...and growth.(courtesy of http://www.mcquaid.org/faith_and_service/campus_ministry/kairos%20cross.JPG)

way, they will be different. This is the magic of Kairos.

So please, don't mock the Kairos goers. Respect their courage to take that leap into the unknown, and to take that chance to grow. I encourage each of you to do the same down the road.

2. Quick, quick, Core 6 update. Last week's lectures were what I have been looking for in the Science Cores. The two lectures on the structure and function of the human brain were excellent. They were amusing, and yet highly informative, consisting of information that one would most likely not have encountered in previous levels of education. A major kudos for those lectures, and here's to hoping the rest of the semester proves as riveting.

3. Alright, I know I've talked about the weather before, but with last week's mood swings so to speak, well, let's just say I understand why we call it "Mother Earth". Sorry, I channeled Mr. Larson for a moment there. In all seriousness, however, last week's weather, and indeed the weather of approximately the last year, has



Partay! ...oh wait, not for Pumas...(courtesy of <http://anthonybradley.worldmagblog.com/anthonybradley/spring-break-crowd.jpg>)

seemed irregular. Now I know what you're all saying, "BJ, we live in the Midwest, you should be used to this kind of weather. What kind of Illini are you?" And this is true, to a point. I've lived in the Midwest most of my life, and I've seen it all. I've seen Blizzards in April and rainstorms in December. Wacky out of season weather I can handle. It's the long string of crazy weather this year that's gotten to me. No snow until late December, followed by colder than seasonal weather for a while, that wacky insta-ice night last month, and last weeks "Am I spring...nah". I'm afraid to get dressed each day, fearing that the clothes I put on will be inappropriate by lunch time. It's enough to make a man invest highly in jogging suits.



Partay! ...oh wait, not for Pumas...(courtesy of <http://anthonybradley.worldmagblog.com/anthonybradley/spring-break-crowd.jpg>)

4. Speaking of spring, Spring Break. Who else was a hellacious level of bored? For those of you who went to Cancun, or Florida, or heck, Alaska, this isn't for you. You lucky punks were partying it up, having a grand ole time; meanwhile, those of us stuck in Illinois and Indiana were bored out of our skulls. It's tragic that the highlight of my week was moderating a Scholastic Bowl Regional at a local high school. Other interesting events included picking my nose, napping, watching no-name-won't-make-the-team losers in spring training baseball, sleeping, eating, and catching some Z's. The crux of the issue is this: we weren't off at the same time as many other schools. Through some conspiracy to keep us sedentary, SJC was practically the only school abdicating their campus. All of my state school friends were still midterming away, as were most of my other college

chums. Then, last week, they were all off, partying at home, while I sat for two math tests on Friday. No, that didn't work out at all. I appreciate that us Pumas get out for the summer earlier than most other schools, but I don't think that means that our Spring Break placement has to be more awkward than an adolescent boy at a supermodel convention.

5. Nicknames. What's that about? In high school, we had very few nicknames for anybody. We called my friend Ryan Clausen "Pickle" for obvious reasons, but that was about the extent of it. Among my friends here at SJC, it almost seems odd to address someone by what was written on their birth certificate. Why, just the other day, we realized we had a new acquaintance who was nicknameless, so to speak, and we wracked our brains until we thought of something, just to be able to refuse to call her Abigail (she ended up being "Honest Abe"). The madness goes on. Among those I see on a regular basis, I know a Mothball, a Blue, a Jelly, a Bean (they're roommates), a Trips, a Kid Pious, an Oot, a PG, a Sam, a Pinky, and a Brain, just to name a few. I know what you're thinking. Sam may not seem like a weird name at all...until you consider his real name is Matt. What is it about the SJC atmosphere that is so conducive for nicknaming? This is not rhetorical, I'd really like to know on this one. Send me an email at bkh5502 with your opinion to get it in the next issue.

6. A brief sports update. Spring training is going well for the Cubbies. Zambrano is off to a hot as start as could be expected, and the additions to the batting side of the roster look to be working out as well. Derrek Lee is back in form after recovering from an injury sustained last year, and even Kerry Wood looks as if he may go a few weeks without spontaneously combusting.

The tourney. By the time this hits stands, I'll probably already be wrong, but my Bracket reads Florida over Georgetown 72-68, with Memphis and Kansas rounding out the final four. Look for the West Virginia Mountaineers to win the NIT after being robbed by the committee on Selection Sunday.

NFL Draft. For those of you still doubting, let me say once and for all that Brady Quinn will be a top three pick. It is this Packers fan's ultimate dream that he goes to the Lions, so that he might face brother-in-law AJ Hawk twice a year until deep in the 2010's. There can't be a much sweeter moment than sacking the opposing quarterback, insinuating that you know his sister in the Biblical sense, and walking away from his undoubtedly shocked expression with the satisfaction that it's true. The moment this happens, AJ Hawk officially wins the game of football, and I just hope he's playing for my team when it happens.

Science Olympiad Letter to the Editor

I wish to extend my congratulations to the many students who worked on the successful Science Olympiad held on February 17 at Saint Joseph's College. A large team of students and staff spent many hours preparing for, troubleshooting and running various events for local middle and high school students. This was the first year in which I had the privilege of participating and it was a thoroughly enjoyable experience, not least because of the impressive volunteer efforts of our students who prepared for events ahead of time and did the necessary running around so that each of the events could go smoothly. Student organizers Joanna Askwith and Kristin Ewen deserve special praise for bringing together what must have been a monumental undertaking. There are always the occasional last minute cancellations by teams or volunteers or the periodic snafus with scoring. This year the weather wasn't exactly cooperative. However, they handled everything with aplomb. I'm glad to be at an institution where so many students are willing to come together to make an important educational event like this work. Thank you!

--Jody Taylor Watkins

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Do and Don't: Lent



Do: Express your religion by opting not to partake in something of your choice, such as pop, or sweets.

Do: Feel free to further express your religious independence by opting to not eat meat on Fridays.

Don't: Attempt to abstain from homework for the duration of Lent due to "religious reasons". Teachers don't take too kindly to that at all. Trust me.

Teresa's Box of Indie Goodies

Teresa Moreno



Only the children of famous people can pull off a gaze of both subtle mystery and severe constipation. (Photo courtesy of <http://viewmorepics.myspace.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=viewImage&friendID=57870039&albumID=0&imageID=3767357>)

Joel Offspring is Famously Awful

There comes a time in the lives of celebrity children when they try their hand at their parent's claim to fame. In some instances, the child just rides on the clout of their parents due to the fact that they are painfully and quite obviously not cut out to follow in the same career path as their parents. In other cases, they have the talent to shine despite who their parents are. Alexa Ray Joel, daughter of Billy Joel, is currently taking on such an endeavor. With her first official release, an EP titled *Sketches*, Joel proves a little, but the question is if she proves enough to shine on her own merits.

From listening to her voice, it's hard to tell if Joel has unique talent. Slightly rusty sounding, her voice is strong, but there is nothing that really captivates the audience. Fluctuating between a jazzy and soulful sound, Joel belts and vocalizes as she skips through notes in her songs. Her voice remains good but lacks the top coating and sheen of glitter

and glamour. It makes her sound rather predictable.

Chord changes, progressions, modulations and are all flat within her music. Someone slightly knowledgeable about music can easily see where her music is headed. It's generic, and if her goal is to sound like many other predecessors, she succeeded when her originality falters. Lyrics such as "I've got a f***king problem with authority" just make her look like an angst ridden teenager trying to find the hippest way to piss off an adult.

Despite all of these problems, Joel is not completely incapable of producing a good record. The problem lies in the mere fact that she's not thinking creatively enough to produce something that is not a standard carbon copy kind of album. She's got a basis, but the casing she's trying to fit it into just doesn't work for her. Her music's tendency toward a juvenile sound is evidence of this. Joel needs to scrap this idea and try again to really achieve a rightful artist's status.

The musical Scorecard is used to give a numerical value to the quality of an album. A score of 10 is amazing, but a score of 1 would cause most listeners to cry out in pain. Five is an average score. The review does not express the opinion of *The Observer*.

Musical Scorecard:

Originality: 2

Lyrics: 3

Music: 3

Cover Art: 2

Total: 2.5/10

Visually Beautiful, Blissfully Inaccurate: 300 Asks for Little, Kills Much

By Gabriele Nichols, Staff Writer

300 is a movie with incredible hype to fulfill. Advertised across the internet since last year, its gory trailers inspired a wave of excitement. They caused people to anticipate a movie like *Gladiator* with 300 men instead of one. *300* may not achieve the level of an Oscar winner, but it still provides an incredibly violent, visceral thrill.

The story of *300* is based both on history and a comic book but is extremely simple still the same.

At some undefined time in Ancient Greece, King Leonidas (Gerard Butler) receives a messenger informing him and Sparta of their two choices: surrender to the Persian empire or face invasion and death by Persian forces.

The messenger is dispatched in the Spartan way, and King Xerxes (Rodrigo Santoro) brings his immeasurable army to the shores of Greece. Thwarted by politics and corruption, Leonidas is left with only 300 men to delay and hold back the entire invasion.

The battles and visuals live up to such an impressive historical battle. Using the effects of another comic book movie, *Sin City*, *300* manages awe inspiring visuals that resemble ink and paint images coming to life. Colors, sizes, even the people are



"This is Sparta!" Leonidas screamed at yet another foreign emissary who confused the heavily militarized city state with Cleveland, Ohio. The subsequent popularity of that catchphrase is further proof that everything sounds cooler when you're wearing a man thong. (Photo courtesy of http://msnbcmedia4.msn.com/j/msnbc/Components/Photos/070307/070307_300movie_hmed_1p.hlarge.jpg)

all exaggerated, with slow motion applied liberally.

The resulting effect is essentially a visualization of the type of battle described in the *Iliad* and other epics. Men fight with inhuman strength creating impossible slaughter.

If the battles of the movie achieve the level of an epic, the rest of the story does not. The acting is mostly simply but decent, with few people standing out at all besides Butler and Santoro.

Most of the 300 Spartans are near impossible to tell apart, even by the end of the movie. The action away from the battle

ranges from acceptable to downright awful.

The dialogue of the film also often falls into terrible clichés, with one character actually uttering the phrase "Freedom isn't free."

Such moments detract from the movie achieving the greatness of its subject matter, but the action on display would still do the Spartans proud.

300 is not a profound film in any way.

However, it is a gorgeous and entertaining movie that will have people quoting "This is Sparta!" for years to come.

3.5 out of 5

Don't Read This Article

By Elizabeth Bessette, Staff Writer

Perhaps if I use that title someone might actually read this. Probably not, but I can dream, right? They will read the first few sentences and then move right on to the Larson article, because that is, of course, why people pick up the *Observer* in the first place. Either that, or it is just good kindling.

So why do I keep doing this to myself week after week, you may ask? Well, I will tell you: One, because I am a glutton for punishment, and, two, I'm hoping that someone besides my editor and a few select friends who glance at it as a formality will eventually read this (unlikely). Not to mention that I adore reviewing books for people who don't, I expect, even like to read. Nevertheless, I will fulfill my noble duty and inform my editor, at least, about a wonderful book called *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*.

This book is, quite simply, a book about a book. The late great Douglas Adams wrote *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* as the first in a six part series. It follows the adventures of Arthur Dent, a human whose planet was blown up to make way for a space highway; Ford Prefect, from a small planet near the vicinity of Betelgeuse; Zaphod Beeblebrox, president of the galaxy and a possible moron; and Trillian, a nice girl from earth with whom Arthur totally blew it with. The four companions make



Warning: Due to strong overtones of self-pity, this article is rated "E" for "emo." (Photo courtesy of <http://www.ranchocurioso.com/daisy/images/Char%20Emo.jpg>)

their way to the legendary nonexistent planet Magrathea because Zaphod, who is missing bits of his brain, has a hunch.

On the surface of the planet that apparently does exist, Arthur is sentenced to stand guard with Marvin, a chronically depressed robot, outside a tunnel that was uncovered by the impact of a sperm whale.

Don't ask.

Arthur is relieved when an old man, whose name is not important, takes him to the

factory floor and he sees that they are making the Earth – again. Arthur finds out that there is something going on that is very strange and it involves a super computer, his brain, and a couple of white mice. If you actually read this article all the way through and without any prompting from me and my threats to murder you in your sleep if you don't, then you are a zarkin frood that really knows where your towel is at.

Heritage is a Great Excuse to Hate You and Everyone You Love

By Joe Larson, Co-Editor in Chief

Americans are a people of fractions. When asked about ethnicity, it's not uncommon for someone to claim to be one-eighth German, a quarter inebriated, and half the age of consent. Underage, drunk, and European isn't a good way to go through life, but it's a great way to go through prom. It's not too bad for going through a retaining wall at twice the legal speed limit, either.

As residents of the great melting pot, United States citizens seldom have ancestors who all come from the same part of the planet. If we were canines, we'd call ourselves mutts. If we were edible plants, we'd call ourselves some sort of freakish tomato-corn-asparagus hybrid. If we were car insurance, we'd call ourselves Progressive Direct. It offers the only policy that protects against both head-on collisions and unexpected zombie attacks. In this tolerant land filled with people of mixed ethnic and cultural backgrounds, two central truths emerge: Stereotypes are always true, and I hate the Irish. Here's a list of countries of origin and reasons why the fact that your ancestors once lived in them makes me dislike you on a personal level.

Ireland

I'm one-eighth Irish, so I can dislike the people of the Emerald Isle with the same authority that the pope uses when he mocks Catholics or the Jews use when they mock the World Trade Center attacks. Without exception, people of Irish descent overstate their tolerance for booze. The true crown of alcoholism belongs to those who hail from Eastern Europe, an entire cluster of countries that turned to the bottle to deal with decades of Soviet rule and centuries of sex with women who have inhumanly thick leg hair. One of the reasons bestiality caught on in Poland was that it was nice to sleep with something a little bit less furry for a change. Compared to this sort of survival-based alcoholism, the Irish seem positively sober by comparison. Furthermore, the Irish didn't even give us Lucky Charms, despite what they'd like you to believe.

That's a distinctly American cereal, although there's a special version of it sold in Ireland. It's made entirely of potatoes and contains a little bit of British oppression in every bite.

Italy

Since the end of World War II, Italians have been known for two things: sweat and sexually-transmitted diseases. If you're proud of your Italian heritage,

you're basically celebrating a hunter-gatherer society that lacks deodorant technology. In the mid-1990s, Italy's tourism industry became the basis of the country's economy, transforming the whole peninsula into a dirty version of Disney Land, only with fewer rides and a higher risk of getting raped. Unlike the French, who have sworn off fighting in favor of devoting more time to being unemployed, Italians still possess a proud tradition of hunting and warfare. Their favorite quarries include Carthaginians and unescorted high school girls. Those who claim Italian heritage like to take credit for Roman civilization and the mafia, but their only lasting contributions to modern world are the Vatican free-state and spaghetti served in toilet-clogging portions, but not necessarily in that order.

Pirate Island

This island nation located somewhere in the middle of parts unknown was once full of swashbuckling entrepreneurs desperately seeking a better way of life or at least a cheaper dental plan. They tried to find that cut-rate oral coverage in America,



Rhode Island's flag celebrates the state's naval heritage but is suspiciously silent on laws concerning statutory rape. The "hope" in question references the state's sincere wish that outsiders overlook the fact that Rhode Island's convicted sex offenders registry and list of registered voters are exactly the same. (Photo courtesy of http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/f/f3/Flag_of_Rhode_Island.svg.png)

probably because the original inscription on the Statue of Liberty said, "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to get drunk and die from scurvy." Thus began the arrival of the only ethnic group less popular than immigrants from nearby Pedophile Island. It's now known as Rhode Island, but good luck finding that name on a map. People don't usually think of pirates as a distinct immigrant population, but they're every bit as much of an ethnic group as gypsies, robots, and crack babies – all three of which poured into the country when the Statue of Liberty inscription read, "Give me your fruity dressers, your cybertronic killing machines, and your infants yearning to be filled with drugs and delivered to remote parts of the world by the U.S. Postal Service." That scheme fell apart when the price of postage went up to thirty-four cents a stamp. Today, those of pirate descent are most easily recognized by their aversion to vitamin C and their fondness for directing allegations of racism against Major League Baseball mascots residing in Pittsburgh.

known for their thick mustaches, skill with a katana, and fondness for eating rocks. In the future, I plan to do more research before I start typing.

Kroger

Grocery stores over 10,000 square feet in size aren't actually considered to be U.S. soil, which is why children born in the frozen food section are the only ones in the world who can still be sold into slavery. Those Krogerans who earn their freedom through extraordinary service in the ice cream mines can immigrate to America, but only if they carry a book of coupons with them at all times upon penalty of death. The Supreme Court upheld this practice in *Krogerans vs. the Human Race* when it ruled that arbitrary discrimination is constitutional as long as it's been going on for a really long time and doesn't require the justices to get up and do anything.

Krogerans are most easily recognized by the fact that you can hit them in the face with a jackhammer and get away with it since they have the same rights as women. Remember, in the

Czechoslovakia

Since Czechoslovakia no longer exists, it's the only geographic point on my list more difficult to locate than pedophile-rich shores of Rhode Island. If it can be assumed that the entire country is made up of people exactly like the one Czech I've ever known, then everyone in Czechoslovakia has a bad hip and hates black people. Additionally, those of Czechoslovakian descent are

eyes of the law, being born with female genitalia is roughly equivalent to being born with Down syndrome.

France

The French have a bad reputation for surrendering, eating cheese, and having testosterone levels equal to those of a castrated ten-year-old boy. While these are all valid points proven by science, there's a truth about the people of ancient Gaul that's often lost somewhere between their unfounded sense of superiority and their unending list of military defeats: Those of French descent are motivated by laziness, not cowardice. This simple fact explains their thirty-hour work week, their hairy armpits, and the reality that the whole of France is willing to torch thousands of cars on behalf of causes that vary by the hour. The senseless rioting of recent years was never about ethnic tension or racial inequality; it was about saving time by torching their own cars rather than getting in them to drive to work. Even the most ardent supporters of the free market have to stop and admire a country whose hiring laws forbid a business from firing an employee who seldom shows up to work but often attacks his boss with a battle ax. Without this sort of work ethic arriving in mass on American shores, this country would be deprived of labor unions, three-day weekends, and battle ax-related workman's compensation. This compensation of course applies to the blisters incurred by an employee who gripped the handle of the ax too tightly, not to the severed limbs incurred by the employer who encountered the opposite end of the weapon too closely. Those of French descent are most easily recognized by their love of art, theater, and any other topic you'd expect to hear people discussing in a gay bar.

There plenty of other countries from which offensive but completely-true stereotypes emerge, but I don't have enough space to list them all here. It suffices to say that if you look at the issue rationally, there's a good reason to hate pretty much everyone on the planet.

Alf Reminds Audiences of a Simpler Time, Tries to Eat a Cat

By Roger Spitler,
Staff Writer

I had a lot of free time over break, so instead of engaging in academic endeavors, working, or catching up on my sleep, I watched nothing but movies and old sitcoms on DVD. My favorite thus far has to be *Alf*. It was a short-lived sitcom on NBC from 1986-1990. It was nominated for twelve awards in its run.

Alf is about an alien from Melmac named Gordon Shumway who crash lands in a house in America that belongs to the Tanners. Melmac has just exploded and Alf is believed to be the last of his species in the

universe. The Tanners don't know what to do with the alien, who looks kind of like a hairy brown dog bred with an aardvark.

The Tanners, a family of four, are unsure of what to do with the alien, so they take him in and name him Alf (Alien Life Form). Willie Tanner (Max Wright) first makes contact with Alf over his CB radio, before Alf crashes into their garage. Willie's wife, Kate (Anne Schedeen), always seems to be unsure of Alf and on his case about something. Lynn (Andrea Elson), the teenage daughter, and Brian (Benji Gregory) the seven-year-old son,

instantly fall in love with Alf, and their lives no longer seem complete without him.

Alf (a puppet in real life) is a wisecracking, sarcastic, know-it-all alien. He always seems to have a story or quick quip to come back with. Everything on Alf's planet seems to be backwards from the way things are on Earth. When it's your birthday, other people get the presents, not the birthday boy or girl. The Melmacian delicacy is cats; Alf is always trying to eat the Tanners' cat, Lucky. He always seems to be aggravating the Tanners. He eats and watches

television constantly. He seems to know everything about every show and always has a funny comment to reference some good late 80s or early 90s television. Dishes, along with everything else, are always broken when Alf is around. Nothing is safe.

The show is based on Alf's struggle to fit into a human world in which everything seems backwards, and the family struggles to adapt to living with Alf. Simple things such as family vacations, eating the cat, and paying increasingly high bills (due to phone calls to Munich and nonstop eating by

Alf) are all constant struggles. The show is not really driven by a plot, however; it's Alf's constant wisecracks that keep the show moving. The plots are typical, the scenes are generic, but the quips are amazing, such as "Putting humans in charge of the earth is the cosmic equivalence of letting Eddie Murphy direct." Each joke ends with Alf's signature catchphrase: "HAHAHA! I kill me!"

Alf was eighth in *TV Guide*'s list of the "25 Greatest Sci-Fi Legends." The series ended too early, but it's still a must see. Alf gets 3.7 jellies out of five.

NCAA March Madness Under Way

By Noah Douglas, Staff Writer

Upsets, Cinderella stories, big plays, and enough memories for a lifetime! The NCAA tournament is the focal point of the sports world for the month of March. As with every year there are the powerhouses that are used to the spotlight, and then there are the small schools looking to make a name for themselves on the national level.

Depending on who you are there are a variety of favorites. The obvious favorites on paper to win it all are the number one seeds--Florida, Kansas, Ohio State, and North Carolina. But there has not been a Final Four with all number one seeds in a very long time.

The surprise teams of the tournament will be Georgetown and Memphis. Not many people have these teams going very far on their brackets, but soon they will see why I chose them as surprise teams. Georgetown has a good mix of defense and up-

tempo offense. Their good play led them to a Big East conference title. They also have two very good players in Roy Hibbert and Jeff Green. Those two will look to lead Georgetown through the tournament.

When it comes to Memphis (30-3), they play excellent defense which makes up for the lack of size that they have. They are also a very fast team. They are led by three very good players: Joey Dorsey, Chris Douglas-Roberts, and Robert Dozier. Most people, when they look at Memphis, say they are good but they haven't played anyone. Well, they are winning and that's what matters.

One team that is a big time favorite and really a no-brainer is the defending national champion Florida Gators. They didn't lose anybody from last year's team and look to run the table once again. Led by Joakim Noah, Al Horford, Corey Brewer, and Taurean Green,

the Gators are once again a likely Final Four participant. The bright spot of their season was against the highly touted Ohio State Buckeyes. They held Greg Oden to single digits in scoring and rebounds, sending the Buckeyes home with a huge loss.

While there are tough teams that are looking to make a run, there are star players looking to carry their ball clubs to the promised land. Kevin Durant, who was without a doubt the best player in the nation, looks to take Texas to a championship. His ability has been unmatched all season, and he is only a freshman.

Acie Law IV of Texas A&M is also a star who has carried his team through the season to a great record. He has exploded this year and made a big name for himself and got some national recognition for his team. He is a great shooter and decision maker who will cause problems for defenders.

Greg Oden of Ohio State was highly rated before he even stepped on the floor for Ohio State. When he was hurt and just watching from the bench, he would still be the topic of most conversations. He is a big impact player and will look to dominate the paint throughout the tournament.

We can talk all day about who we think will win and who will help their team win the most effectively, but it's up to the players to go out and perform. The good thing is, we all love watching them.



The 2007 Men's Basketball Championship Tournament looks to be quite exciting. (www.lakemichiganconference.org/images/ncaa.gif).



Baseball Ready For GLVC Contests

By Clark Teuscher, Sports Writer



Several Pumas congratulate each other after defeating Rockhurst 8-0 on Sunday. (All photos courtesy of Fr. Tim McFarland).



Sophomore pitcher Clay Tingley has emerged as a reliable pitcher.

run rally in the 10th went unanswered by SJC in the bottom of the inning.

Ed Schlueter (Fr., Machesney Park, IL/Harlem) recorded the loss (2-1), allowing four runs on two hits and two walks in 2 1/3 innings.

The second game also remained scoreless through the early going, with the Hawks (11-9, 4-4 GLVC) breaking the ice by scoring three unearned runs in the fourth inning. SJC countered in the bottom of the inning with a

The Saint Joseph's College baseball team opened the home portion of its 2007 schedule by hosting Rockhurst for a three-game Great Lakes Valley Conference series at Gil Hodges Field over the weekend.

The Hawks won both of Saturday's games, prevailing, 4-0, in the 10-inning opener before posting a 3-2 victory in the nightcap. SJC bounced back to dominate Sunday's game, winning by a score of 8-0.

SJC, however, could not manage to get its own offensive attack going, putting just four runners in scoring position and not advancing any runners past second base. The Hawks' four-

pair of runs, as Ryan Payne (Jr., Bethalto, IL/Rend Lake CC) brought a runner home with a sacrifice fly and Jeff McDole (Jr., Greencastle, IN/South Putnam) recorded an RBI single. The Pumas stranded runners in scoring position in the fifth and sixth innings.

Chase Sonen (Jr., Cary, IL/Cary-Grove) pitched all seven innings, allowing five hits and no earned runs. He walked one and struck out two. Matt Reimer (Jr., Downers Grove, IL/Glenbard South) went 3 for 3 at the plate. Sunday's game also saw no runs scored in the first three frames,

though SJC put up eight runs over the next four innings to end any hopes of a sweep by the Hawks. McDole scored on an error and Jim Jaworski (RJr., Crown Point, IN/Andrean) crossed the plate on a fielder's choice to provide a 2-0 lead for the Pumas in the fourth.

Jaworski followed up with a two-run double in the fifth to boost SJC's advantage to 4-0, before the hosts tacked on three more runs in the sixth. Matt Wille

2008 Beijing Olympics Will Be "Green"

By Jennifer Hensley, Staff Writer

In 2008, the Olympic Games will be held in Beijing--a wonderful, cultural place rich in history and modern age, which includes the pollution of the world. However, Beijing will be getting its act together for the coming sports. In this sense, they will be making the dream of staging a "Green Olympics" by succeeding in disposing 90 percent of its urban sewage in the proper manner.

"We are confident that Beijing's water environment would reach, or even surpass, Olympic standards before the 2008 Olympic Games begin," Beijing Water Authority chief Jiao Zhizong said on Saturday.

New technologies will be introduced to help in the aid of disposing wastewater. It is the authority's goal to increase the recycled water to 480 million cubic meters. That's about one-tenth of the city's water supply.

"Another 300,000 rural residents will have access to safe drinking water within this year."

Jiao promised to mark the "Green Games" with the cleaning of ALL the canals, moats, and lakes within the Sixth Ring Road too.

"This year we will ensure that the clean ones stay clean and continue treating the rest, including the lower reaches of Qinghe River near the main venue."

By the time the Olympics open next year, the city of Beijing will be cleaner, fresher, and more than ready to house the first "Green Olympics."

(Jr., Crystal Lake, IL/McHenry CC) hit a two-run single and Payne came up with an RBI double. The final run of the game came in the seventh on a sacrifice fly by Reimer.

Matt Enderle (Sr., South Beloit, IL/HIGHLAND CC) got the win (3-1), pitching seven shutout innings. He allowed four hits and one walk, striking out five. Kevin Diete (Sr., Countryside, IL/Lyons Township) went 3 for 5 at the plate, while Clay Tingley (So., Edon, OH) and Joe Panozzo (Sr., Lansing, IL/Joliet CC) each were 2 for 4 and Wille and Payne were 2 for 5.



Junior first baseman Jim Jaworski has become a leader both on the field and in the dugout.

Athletic Facilities To Undergo Renovations, Additions



By Andrew Costello,
Sports Editor

The Saint Joseph's Capital Campaign is underway. In layman's terms, the Capital Campaign is a highly-publicized effort on behalf of the College to raise money to help the college update its facilities, foster a better educational atmosphere, and ultimately make the place look presentable. There are many renovations and additions in store for buildings like Noll Hall and the campus theatre. However, it does not take too long before one notices that many of the athletic facilities at Saint Joseph's College are rather old and could use some work. Fortunately for Puma super fans and student-athletes alike, the Capital Campaign has also been established to help renovate and cultivate a new athletic prestige for the Pumas.

One building that carries an aura of nostalgia is the Richard F. Scharf Alumni Fieldhouse. First opened in 1941, the Fieldhouse has become a tough venue for road teams in the Great Lakes Valley Conference. In the next year, the Fieldhouse will be renovated to help accommodate the football and basketball teams. The backcourt in the fieldhouse (where the student section and concession stands are located) will be resurfaced with new hard wood, allowing for better

practices for the various SJC athletic teams. Also in place for next year, one will notice new coaching offices up on the loft of the fieldhouse as well as a trophy room by the front entrance with pictures of the various student-athletes representing the College in Division II. On the north side of the building, there will be an addition to the fieldhouse where a new locker room(s), laundry machines (for all athletes and managers), and equipment (primarily football) will be in place to accommodate student-athletes and managers. One set of the current lockers in the fieldhouse will be placed in the new addition of the fieldhouse and be used for football purposes, while the other lockers will be kept in their original place and be used by the basketball teams.

The football team will continue to be rewarded for its winning tradition with the long-awaited renovations and additions to Alumni Stadium. One of the most anticipated stadium upgrades will be the addition of new bleachers, several of which will be back-seated (between the 40-yard lines, roughly). There will be new steps leading up to the press box, and the wooden bleachers will be transported to the Michael A. Vallone/Class of 1960 Track and Field Complex to help accommodate spectators, if compliant with safety and foundation (concrete) standards.

The remaining functional aluminum seats currently on the "home" side of the stadium will be moved over to the "visitor" side. Lastly, a new chain-linked fence will envelop the north, east, and west portions of Alumni Stadium. The south entrance of the football field, where teams enter, will have wrought iron gates. According to a source in athletics, the renovations on the stadium must be completed contractually by the beginning of August.

Lastly, the Capital Campaign is also funding renovations for the Hanson Recreation Center. The most noticeable restoration in the Rec Center will be a resurfaced Mondo rubber flooring on the circumference of the Center as well as on the three tennis courts to help accommodate track and field, softball, tennis, football, baseball, soccer, and intramural athletes.

All of the improvements to the athletic facilities in the upcoming months have Saint Joseph's College Athletic Director Bill Massoels in an positive mood.

"We are excited about the entire Capital Campaign and its efforts to renovate the facilities of the college. The athletic department is especially excited that a sizable portion of the Capital Campaign's fundraising is going to be dedicated towards athletics."

Softball Goes 3-0 In Wild Weekend

By Clark Teuscher,
Sports Information Director

The Saint Joseph's College softball team made use of its home-field advantage Saturday and Sunday to win three of its first four Great Lakes Valley Conference games, splitting a twin bill the University of Missouri-Rolla on Saturday and sweeping Rockhurst University on Sunday.

The Pumas (9-7, 3-1 GLVC) lost Saturday's first game, 3-0, to the Miners before recording a 9-8, 15-inning victory in the nightcap. SJC followed up with 4-2 and 8-0 victories over Rockhurst.

SJC's offense struggled to get untracked in the first game of the weekend, managing just four hits

in the first game against UMR (11-6, 2-2 GLVC). Sara Somogyi (So., Chicago, IL/Resurrection) allowed two earned runs on seven hits, striking out 13 and walking four.

The Pumas, however, got on the board in the first inning of the second game, as Jessie Privett (Jr., Fortville, IN/Mt. Vernon) delivered an RBI double. Missouri-Rolla, however, posted two runs in the third and another in the fourth to take a 3-1 lead.

SJC put together a four-run rally in the fifth, getting a bases-loaded walk from Privett and a three-run double from Stephanie Kickels (So., Lemont, IL). The Miners responded once again,



LEFT TO RIGHT: Catalani, Hammons, Somogyi, Kristoff, and Privett come together in Florida (Photo courtesy of Catalani).

tallying five runs over the next two innings to take an 8-5 advantage.

The lead held up until SJC was down to its final out in the seventh, when Ashley Reed (Jr., Kokomo, IN/Western) hit a three-run homer, the Pumas' first of the season, to knot the score at 8-8. Neither team scored again until the 15th frame, when Nicole Fetla (Sr., Chesterton, IN) reached on a double, then scored the winning run on another two-

Puma Softball Profile: Nicole Fetla

By Andrew Costello, Sports Editor



The Richard F. Scharf Alumni Fieldhouse is host to many memorable moments in Puma athletics. (Photo courtesy of Fr. Tim McFarland).

A senior outfielder from Chesterton, IN, Fetla started in all but four games last year and has a .250 average. She is also a stellar defender, having committed only one error this season. (Photo and statistics by Sports Information)

1. Age: 21

2. Favorite Disney movie: Aladdin

3. Kenny Chesney or Keith Urban: Keith Urban.

4. Cubs or Sox: Cubs.

5. When did you start playing softball: When I was 7 years old.

6. What's the biggest obstacle you have overcome in life: Softball-wise it would have to be when I broke my elbow my

sophomore year in Florida and had to deal with having to sit out for the remainder of the season.

7. Favorite Ice Cream: Orange Sherbert.

8. Any Hidden Talents?: I am a black belt in Tae Kwon Do.

9. Proudest moment as a Puma: Making it to the GLVC Conference tournament last year for the first time in my softball career at SJC and eliminating Indy from the tournament.

10. One person I would like to have dinner with: Lloyd Christmas.

11. Favorite Quote: "The talent is here wadies."

12. Any Career plans? To either work in Indy and live with Nagelbom and Kat or stay home and work in Chesterton as a correctional officer.

13. Finish the sentence: "How much wood would a woodchuck chuck...." If a woodchuck could chuck wood?

14. Is the glass half-full or empty? Half-full.

March Madness...

Practice? We talkin' about practice...

Sidney Crosby or Wayne Gretzky

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ack5427@saintjoe.edu

FINAL FOUR 2007

SJC closed the weekend with its most dominant win of the early season. The Pumas scored six runs in the second to seize control, getting six hits and also taking advantage of three Rockhurst errors. Hammons got the scoring spree started with an RBI single, before Danielle Austin (Jr., Farmersburg, IN/North Central) drove in two more runs with another base hit. Austin and Casey Pierson (Fr., Portland, OR/St. Mary's) later scored on an error and Cheryl Zakowski (So., Worth, IL/Mt. Assisi) capped off the scoring with another run-scoring single.

SJC tacked on two runs in the fourth, as Fetla came up with an RBI double and Pierson delivered an RBI single.

Somogyi picked up her third win of the weekend, improving her season record to 7-3. She allowed three hits and one walk and struck out five.

base hit by Michelle Hammons (Sr., Greenwood, IN).

Somogyi entered the game as a relief pitcher in the eighth, and wound up pitching the final eight innings. She allowed just one hit and one walk, recording 16 strikeouts. Privett was 4 for 6 at the plate, while Fetla, Kickels, and Ashley Emmett (Jr., Schererville, IN/Andrean) each had three hits.

The Pumas also got on the board first in Sunday's opener, scoring on a single by Hammons in the second. Rockhurst (3-7, 0-4 GLVC) briefly took the lead with two third-inning runs, but SJC scored three runs in the fifth to take the lead for good. Privett tied the score with a sacrifice fly, and Kickels followed with a two-run homer for the game-winning RBI.

Hammons was 3 for 3 in the game for the Pumas. Somogyi allowed six hits and two runs in getting the win, striking out nine and walking three.

A Graduation Vigil

Popular Dissent with Danny Waclaw

Graduation and coffee make strange bedfellows.

According to the wonderful people at EnergyFiend.com, the caffeine in 140 consecutively imbibed cups of brewed coffee can actually kill me. This means that I have actually managed to be half-dead after a night at Grandma's, working on my end-of-term projects and worrying about my future filled with taxes, insurance, and instability.

Indeed, the night never seems to end. After all, as a college senior, it is my duty to spend too much time in the apartments and the bars, mainly for the purpose of socialization since these are the social hotspots for SJC students. Add studying for exams, last-minute projects thanks to procrastination, and insomnia to the mix, and the days leading up to graduation actually become a harmful potion, even more potent than

140 cups of coffee.

The funny thing, though, is that, once 3:00 A.M. comes around and once the subconscious comes out to play, nothing seems quite so bad. Sure, insomnia may cause the occasional hallucination or daydream, but everything starts to color itself in, and nothing seems quite so time-sensitive as it did a few years ago.

I noticed this a few days ago when I was simply awake in the middle of the night for no reason. No schoolwork was waiting for me; not even an exciting VH1 special was calling my name. I was alone with a book, reading and not reading at the same time, and all of a sudden it hit me that this constant Woody-Allen-esque paranoia was all for naught. It seemed to me then that the only thing that my constant struggle to find reason and reality in my life brought to the table was the occasional ulcer

scare.

While this is a wonderful idea to grasp in my penultimate days in college, I can't forget that the paranoia is sometimes a little real and warranted and that insomnia isn't always the best way to conjure up philosophies of life.

I'm left with a conundrum, then: do I choose to continue to eliminate paranoia from my life completely by adopting a *que-sera-sera* attitude, or do I continue to suffer my freak-outs and my constant anxiety over my future?

I think that, when it comes down to it, everything isn't going to fall into place. If this is a given, though, why worry about it? Things will come and things will go. Sometimes, the best axioms come right out of paranoia, out of insomnia, out of the slap-happy world in which the college senior lives.

The only thing left to worry about, then, for post-graduation life is just this:

What cheap beverage can I find that won't kill me?

On the Town!

Diana Ross

- Who? The original disco diva sings old favorites to new audiences at the Chicago Theatre.

- When? 8 PM CST on Saturday, April 14, 2007.

- Where? The Chicago Theatre in Chicago, IL.

- Tickets are available at www.ticketmaster.com.

Neko Case

- Who? Lead vocalist for the New Pornographers performs work from her latest solo album.

- When? 7:30 PM CST on March 28, 29, and 30, 2007.

- Where? Park West in Chicago, IL.

- Tickets are available at www.ticketmaster.com.

Overheard

If you've heard anything scandalous at the cafeteria, anything outrageous enough that you can't keep it to yourself, then look no further! Submit your anonymous comments to dwj5079@saintjoe.edu today to let your peers' voices be heard!

Kids, can we keep it down? I've left my Xanax in the car.

Get out of here, you townie!

It doesn't matter if they touch me now: they won't ever see me again!

That's great! I'm gonna take the dime story, and just insert my own name into it

I find it cruel to tell our electric customers they can go online to report outages.

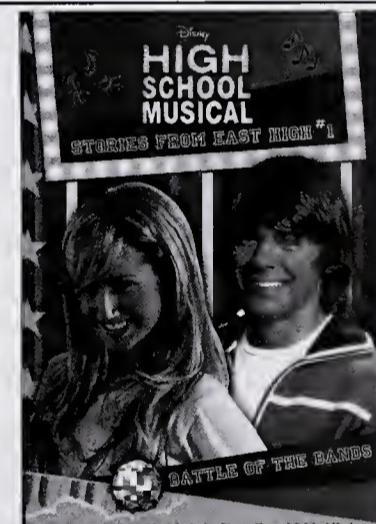
I gave McGruff B-cups.

Nota Bene

On the white middle class' move from the cities to the suburbs:

"Let's face it, we became ingrown, clannish, and retarded. Cut off from the mainstream of humanity, we came to believe that pink is "flesh-color", that mayonnaise is a nutrient, and that Barry Manilow is a musician."

from Barbara Ehrenreich's essay "The Unbearable Whiteness of Being"



Book Jacket of the Issue!

Welcome to the world of Disney's newest extra-cool franchise, *High School Musical*. In this junior novel based on the Emmy-award-winning made-for-TV film, we become engrossed in a new love triangle; will basketball star Troy ultimately end up dating Sharpay? Will Sharpay's twin brother Ryan steal Gabriella away from Troy? Maybe this is a little too much for a tweens' book, but thanks to the Disney company, our children will continue to become more enthralled in their own trivial drama.

Photo and info courtesy of <http://www.barnesandnoble.com>

Karma and the Cosmos

Divined by our own Auntie Cleo



Pisces (Feb. 18-March 20)

Hey, sunshine, it is time to join the rest of the Puma world. Stop living in your little dream world; it is getting you nowhere fast. Get a grip—do you even know what day it is?

Aries (March 21-April 19)

Someone has a case of the Mondays. Guess what: no one wants to hangout with bitter Betty. So, turn that frown upside down and find something to smile about. Life could be much worse, so appreciate what you have for a change.

Taurus (April 20-May 19)

You are not the only one suffering from spring fever. Summer will be here before you know it. It is time to start planning. Do you have a job lined up, or are you just going to mooch off of your parents for the rest of your life?

Gemini (May 20-June 20)

Stop being so spiteful; your roommate gets the point. You only have a couple more months left, so suck it up and stop being a baby. Just make sure you find a new hiding spot for your food; maybe then it will stop disappearing.

Cancer (June 21-July 21)

This is your time to shine! Celebrate all of your accomplishments; you deserve it. Take time to treat yourself to some new summer apparel or a fun trip. Live it up while you can.

Leo (July 22-Aug. 22)

Someone has caught a case of puppy love! Have fun with it. There is nothing better than having a snuggle buddy. Plan creative dates like a picnic in the park or goof around at a skating rink.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 21)

You will eventually see the light at the end of the tunnel. Even though you are completely overwhelmed with life and schoolwork right now, the payoff will be worth it in the end. Stop worrying about petty things. Your Core paper is more important than your messy room.

Libra (Sept. 22-Oct. 22)

Okay, smitten kitten, it is time to get your priorities in order. Who is more important, your current "flavor of the week" or your friends? Your crew is not going to put up with your lack of friendship much longer.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

It may feel like your whole world is crashing down around you. Just take one step at a time. Stop feeling sorry for yourself and do something—crying will get you nowhere. Stay busy and fill your life with people who love you for you.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 20)

Arrogance will get you nowhere fast. Are you having problems fitting through doorways lately because your head has gotten so large it might get stuck? It is time for a major reality check.

Capricorn (Dec. 21-Jan. 19)

Blah! That is your life right now. It is time for a change. Get out and do something besides sitting in front of your computer. There are other students on campus who actually hang out and do things. They might enjoy your company.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 17)

Grandma, Grandpa...is that you? I hope you enjoy your new super-nerdy routine. Try finding a balance of work and play. You are in your prime, so stop acting like you are on your death bed. Live life!

Coming Soon!

Wild Hogs